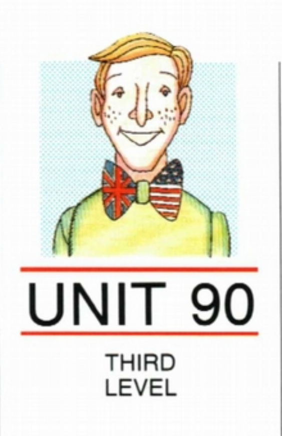
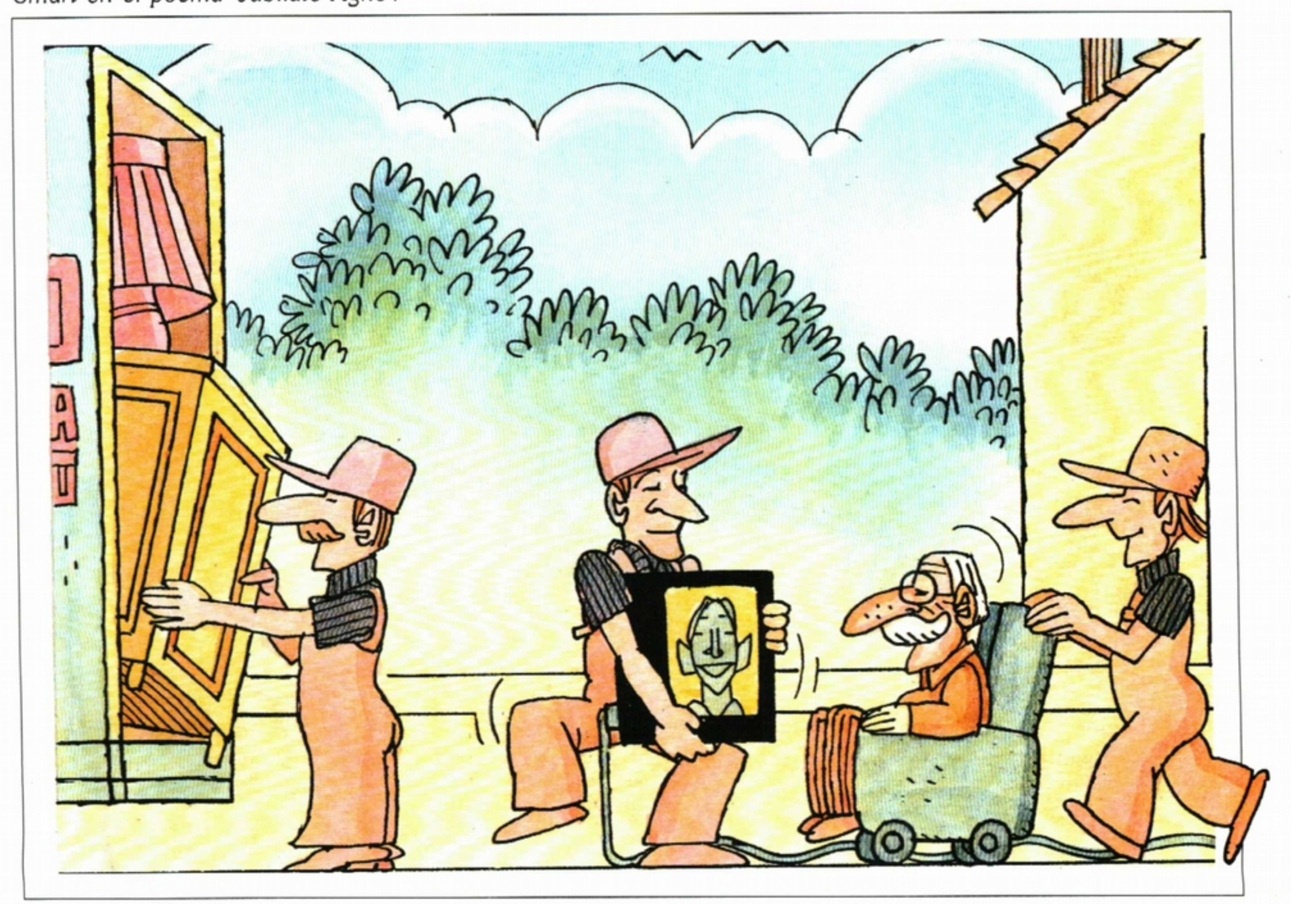
Hogar, dulce hogar

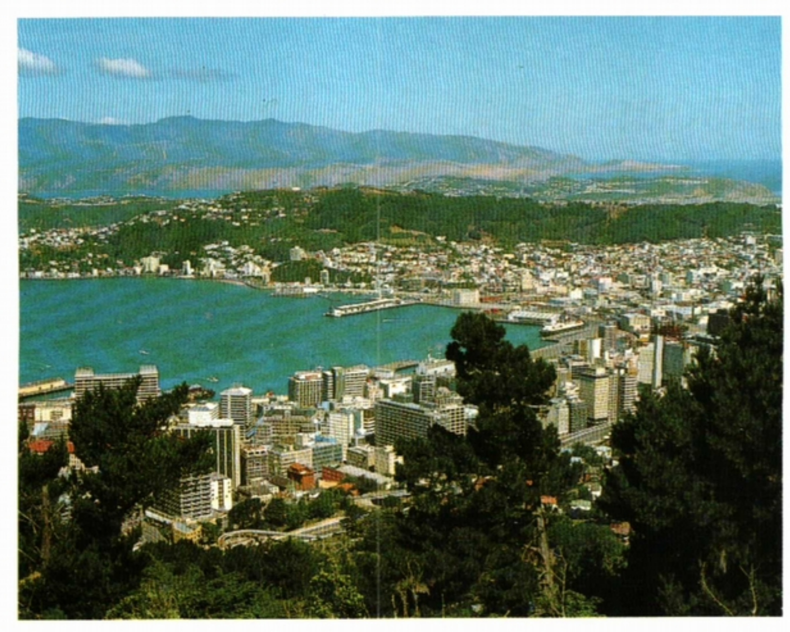
La Unidad que tiene por delante es muy 'doméstica', ya que las vivencias que la animan giran en torno a una casa. Esta vez se trata de una familia que, gracias al generoso testamento del difunto abuelo, decide comprar una residencia de campo en Sussex —una de las zonas más bellas y selectas del sur de Inglaterra— y debe afrontar todos los trámites y la toma de decisiones que ello implica: por ejemplo, hallar una empresa seria que se ocupe de la mudanza o de las eventuales reformas, o confiar a unas manos expertas el cuidado del vasto jardín. Ciertamente en una morada de este tipo es agradable rodearse de animales domésticos, especialmente cuando hacen la felicidad de los niños. Pero no todo es tan sencillo si el encargado de comprar los animales es tan incauto como entusiasta: se corre el riesgo de encontrarse en medio de un aviario, entre aves exóticas de costumbres muy particulares. Las situaciones presentadas, extremadamente irónicas y divertidas como siempre, le darán la oportunidad de ver en acción las oraciones implícitas introducidas por los participios, en este caso con función adverbial. También hallará el animal doméstico por excelencia, el gato, desempeñando el insólito papel de un ser espiritual y religioso. Así lo considera el poeta del siglo XVIII Christopher Smart en el poema 'Jubilate Agno'.



UNIT 90

THIRD LEVEL





Wellington, al borde de un volcán

La isla del Norte alberga las dos mayores ciudades de Nueva Zelanda: Auckland, en el norte, y Wellington, la capital, en el sur (en las fotos). Esta última se extiende en las proximidades del estrecho de Cook, en torno a una bahía cerrada que en un tiempo remoto fue el cráter de un gran volcán. Este territorio fue deslealmente sustraído a la población maorí, en 1839, por la New Zealand Company, que poco tiempo después envió a la zona el primer contingente de colonos. En los siguientes treinta años hubo enconadas luchas entre los europeos y los indígenas, quienes durante ese lapso reivindicaron en vano sus derechos. Hoy en día la capital cuenta con unos 300.000 habitantes.



There's no place like home

Do you remember John and Mary from Unit 88? After travelling down to Penzance to hear the reading of Mary's father's will, they found themselves with a fortune in the bank. In a situation like that, the first thing that most married couples would do is move house. And John and Mary are no exception. After spending a few weeks looking around at what the market has to offer, they finally decide to look at a large house in the countryside of Sussex, south-west of London. In the dialogue you're about to hear, they're being shown round the house and grounds by an estate agent.

One of the most interesting points of this dialogue is the way the speakers use participle clauses like **generally speaking, judging from the size, considering its age**, and so on. It shouldn't be too difficult to interpret these, but you may be a little surprised by the fact that the subject of the participle clause is not the same as the subject of the main clause, as is usually the case. In fact, all of them belong to a group of expressions which are exceptions to the rule. You'll find a list of these expressions, along with notes about how they're used, in the GRAMMAR section.

In addition to these, there are one or two useful items of vocabulary which you'll come across in the course of the dialogue which refer to houses. A **listed building**, for example, is a house or other building which has been put on a list because it is felt to be interesting for some reason (perhaps because it is very old, or because something important happened there in the past). Buildings like this cannot be pulled down, nor can they be added to without special permission. **Planning permission** is the official permission which a town or county council gives to change or extend buildings. And an **extension** is a part added on to an already existing house.

Finally, two rather colloquial verb forms crop up here: **run down** and **to get carried away. Run down**, which is used as an adjective here, is the past participle of **to run down**, which, among other things, means **to decay**, so a house that is **run down** is one that is old and in bad condition. The house John and Mary are looking at isn't actually run down very much at all, but John obviously feels he has to say this if he wants to keep the price down. And that's probably why he tells Mary not **to get carried away**. This phrasal verb means **to become very enthusiastic**.

Getting carried away by a house

While you listen to this dialogue, pay attention to the way the speakers use **participle clauses**. Then repeat:

Here we are. As you can see, the house is surrounded by nearly two and a half acres of garden. ___

Judging from the size, I think we're going to need a gardener. ___

Well, we can afford one now, John, can't we? ___

How old is the house? ___

Well, the main part dates back to the sixteenth century, but the west wing was added later. ___

It looks a bit run down. ___

Oh, I wouldn't say so. Considering its age, it's in a good state of repair. You might have to do a little work on the roof, but apart from that there are no major problems. Let's have a look around, shall we? This is the hall. ___

Mmm. It's nice and big. ___

On the left there's a study, and over here there's the drawing room. ___

I like these windows. ___

Yes, well let's not get carried away, shall we, Mary? Are there any bathrooms on this floor? ___

Oh, yes. There's a bathroom on every floor. Here's the one for the ground floor. ___

What's the plumbing like? ___

Generally speaking, it's in pretty good condition. ___

And the wiring? ___

Well, taking everything into consideration, that's in a fairly good state, too. This is the kitchen. ___

Ooh, I like this. It's lovely and light. ___

Supposing I wanted to add a couple of rooms for the children, would there be any problem? I mean, it isn't a listed building or anything like that, is it? ___

Oh, goodness, no. Providing you get planning permission, there shouldn't be any problem at all. ___

Do you think they're liable to give it? ___

Yes, I think so. Broadly speaking, Sussex County Council are pretty good about that sort of thing. As long as any extensions fit in with the appearance of the rest of the house, of course. ___

Mmm. ___

But there's lots of space here, anyway. On the first floor there are six bedrooms and a bathroom. ___

Six? Oh. Perhaps I wouldn't need to build an extension, after all. ___

What do you think, John? ___

Well, yes, it's okay, I suppose. What's the price? ___

£495,000, sir. ___

Ah. I see. ___

Come on, John, let's take it. ___

UNIT 90

So far they're doing quite well

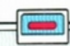


Despite the high price, John and Mary decide to buy the house. After doing a few repairs, the day of the move finally arrives. Let's listen now to the two of them as they help direct the workmen.

Once again, you'll find a number of participle clauses in the course of the conversation, and once again they are used not as adjectives (as you saw in Unit 87), but as adverbs. One interesting point here is the way speakers use participle clauses which contain stative verbs (verbs like **to be, to feel, to hope** and so on). In this case, stative verbs give the idea of a reason or cause: **I decided to get Mugsy's to do it, hoping they would be a little more careful**. If you would like more information about this, of course, all you need to do is have a look at the GRAMMAR section.

Another interesting point about this dialogue is the little adverb **around**. You've already seen this on a number of occasions, usually accompanied by a verb (**to have a look around, to jump around, to stick around**, and so on), and as you can see from these, it has a number of different meanings. Usually it means **to various places** or **in various places** (as in the case of **to ask around**), but it can also mean **on all sides, in all directions** or **somewhere near** (as in the case of **to stick around**). Look at the following examples: **There was a high hedge all around the house; There wasn't a house for miles around; Stick around and you may learn something about how to buy a house.**

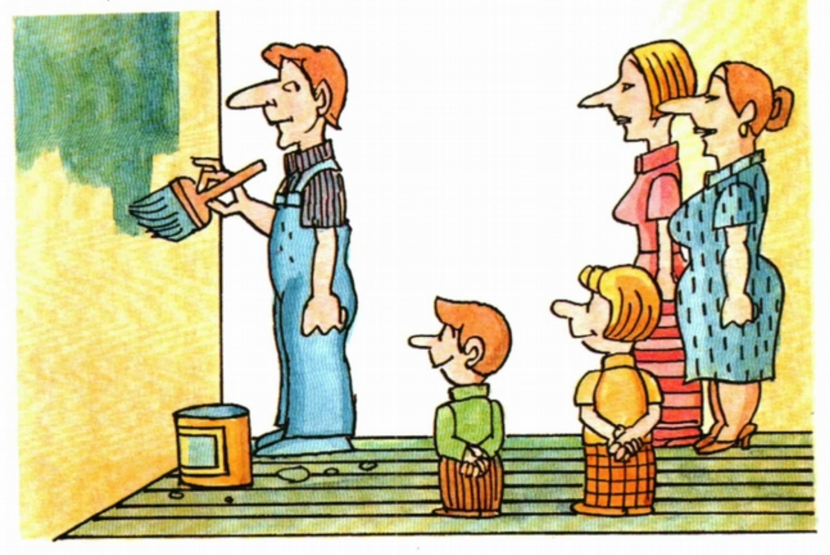
There's a useful expression in this sentence, too: **They seem to be doing very well so far**. Here **so far** refers to time and it means **up to the present**. What Mary wants to say, then, is that up to this point in time the workmen haven't broken anything. But **so far** can also be used to talk about distances, and in that case it means **up to this point**.



Roll over, Beethoven

Before listening to this dialogue, look through and mark the **participle clauses**. Then, as you listen and repeat, pay attention to the intonation:

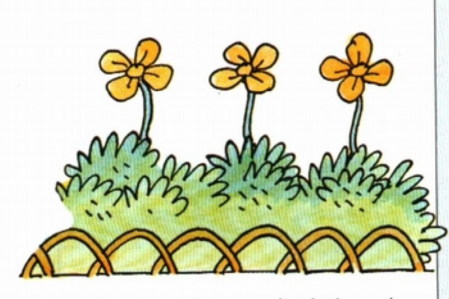
Where does this go, Missus? ___
Oh, could you put that in the drawing room, please? ___
And what about these books? ___
Oh, they go in the study. It's the room on the left as you go in. ___
Hello, dear. How's it going? ___
Oh, not too badly, I suppose. ___
They haven't broken anything, have they? ___
No, I don't think so. Well, not yet, anyway. Have you seen that telephone table mother gave us? ___
Yes. It's upstairs. ___
Upstairs? What's it doing upstairs? ___
Well, not knowing where you wanted it, I told them to put it in our bedroom. ___
But it's supposed to go in the hall. ___
Oh. Sorry. Anyway, never mind. I'll bring it down later. ___
Where would you like this, then? ___
Oh, could you put it in the kitchen, please? ___
What's in there? ___
The pots and pans. Why did you decide to use Mugsy & Sons for the move? I thought you were going to ask Joe Wreckitt. ___
Well, I asked around and everyone said that Wreckitt's always managed to break things. So I dedided to get Mugsy's to do it, hoping they would be a little more careful. ___
Well, it looks like you made the right choice. They seem to be doing very well so far. ___
Excuse me. I'm afraid there was a little problem with that big statue. ___
Statue? What statue? Oh, God, no! Not my bust of Beethoven! ___



Talking over the garden

The house John and Mary have moved into has obviously been empty for some time; that's why they had to do the repairs on the roof. And you can imagine what state the garden's in! The next step, then, is to decide what to do about it. As they no longer have any problems about money, they decide to ask a firm of professionals to do it for them. So one day John goes along to talk about their plans. And a couple of days later John and Mary are waiting for the arrival of the workmen to start work...

You'll find a number of sentences here which contain conjunctions and prepositions, like **after** and **before: After talking it over with them, I decided against it; Before having lunch, why don't we look over the plans together?** There is, in fact,

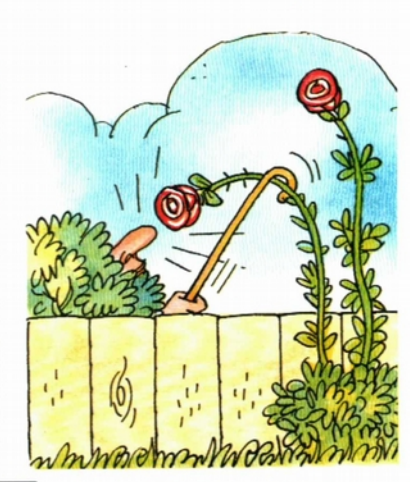


a whole series of these words which can be used in front of participle clauses in this way. Once again, you'll find a comprehensive list of them, along with an explanation of how they're used, in the GRAMMAR section of this Unit.

Notice also the phrasal verb **to talk something over**. As is fairly clear from the context, John uses it to say that he **discussed** the plans of the garden with the company that are going to do the work. And **to decide**, as you know, can be followed by different prepositions, according to the idea you want to express. If you want to say that you've decided to do something, you can use either the infinitive or the preposition **on** followed by a noun or a noun phrase: **We decided to plant a couple of magnolias; We decided on a St Bernard.** If you've decided not to do something, as John does here, the preposition to use is **against: I decided against it.**

And look at Mary's expression of surprise when John tells her how big magnolias can get: **God, I didn't know they were that big.** So far, you've only seen **that** being used as a demonstrative adjective. Here, however, Mary uses it to add force to the adjective **big**, which comes immediately afterwards. In cases like this, it is stressed rather heavily, as you'll hear when you listen to the dialogue.

Finally, you'll find a couple of false friends: **these days** and **kennel**. Contrary to appearances, **these days** isn't used to talk about a period of a few days, but to the whole of the present. And a **kennel** isn't a place where you leave your dog when you go away on holiday that is **kennels**. It's a kind of small wooden house where a dog sleeps.



The gnomes of the roses

In this dialogue, notice how John and Mary use participle clauses that begin with **after** and **before:**

When are they due to arrive? ___

About two. ___

Did you decide on a plan for the garden in the end? ___

Oh, yes. I spent about three hours with them the other day. They're very well-equipped, you know. They do all the planning by computer these days. ___

Do they? ___

Yes. ___

What did they think of your idea of planting a couple of magnolias? ___

Well, after talking it over with them, I decided against it. ___

Why? What was the problem? ___

Well, they said that they would get too big. Apparently they grow to a circumference of 15 feet. ___

Really? God, I didn't know they were that big. But couldn't you plant just one? ___

Well, I suppose I could. They want to put some gnomes near the roses, as well. And a pond, as well. But I'm not very happy about that idea. ___

Neither am I. Especially with the children around. ___

I tell you what. Before having lunch, why don't we look over the plans together? That way, if you think there are any other changes to make, we can talk about it with them when they arrive. ___

Okay, then. Where are they? ___

They're in here. Hang on a minute. Here you are. ___

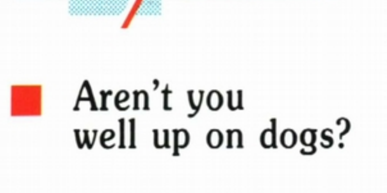
John. What's this? ___

That? Oh, it's er... a place for the kennel. ___

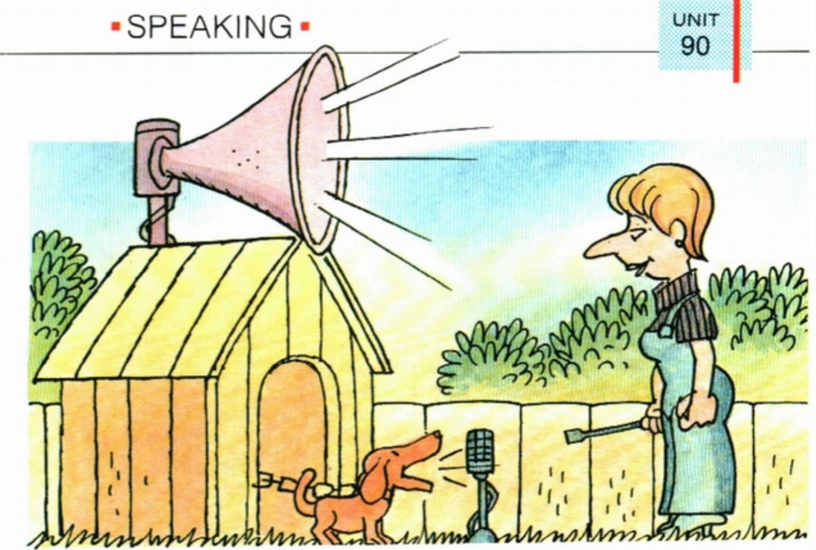
The kennel? What kennel? ___

Didn't I tell you? The children asked me if they could have a dog, and as we've got such a big house now, I don't see any reason why not. ___

A dog? Oh, my God! ___



Aren't you well up on dogs?



It was fairly obvious that the children would want a dog once they had moved into a large house in the country. So one day John and Mary go along to the nearest pet shop in an attempt to satisfy their children's desires. And there they are confronted by a whole series of dogs of all shapes and sizes.

When they get to the pet shop, the owner asks the couple if they had a particular **breed** in mind: he means, of course, a kind of dog that has been produced under the influence of men. You'll find some examples in the dialogue: **St Bernard** for example, or a **Labrador**, or else an **Alsatian**, which is called a **German shepherd** in the US. A **puppy**, as you can probably guess from the context, is a very young dog.

You'll find some useful colloquial expressions in the dialogue, as well. One of them crops up in this sentence: **I'm not that well up on dogs, I'm afraid**. You can use the phrasal verb **to be well up on something** when you want to say that you know a lot about it: **I'm well up on Siamese cats; I'm well up on parrots**. It's also possible to substitute the last **on** with **in: Maggie isn't very well up in gardening, is she?**

There are three other words that might cause you problems. The first is the verb **to tease**. When you **tease** an animal or a person, you make them a little angry or impatient especially by continuing to do something to them that they don't like. You can tease a dog or a cat by pulling its tail all the time, for example.

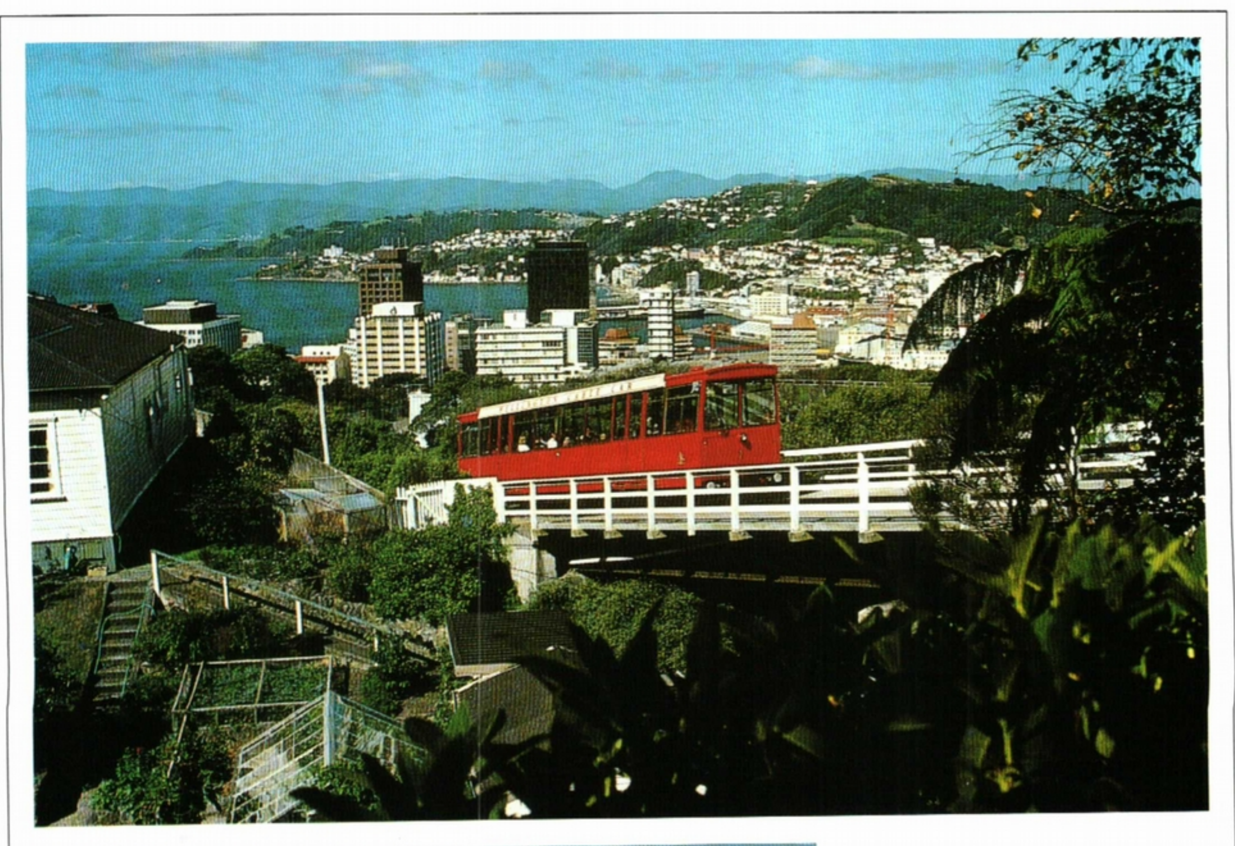
The second is the little adjective **cuddly**. This comes from the verb **to cuddle**, which means **to hold closely and lovingly**: it's what children do with dolls and teddy bears, and what adults do with each other! So something that is **cuddly** is something that you want to cuddle all the time, usually because it's warm and covered with fur. Like a Persian cat or... a St Bernard!

The last is **to trap**, which you'll find in the passive in this sentence: **I meant the ones they use in Switzerland when people get trapped in the snow.** This verb means **to be caught with no way of escaping.**

Man's best friend

John and Mary have gone to the pet shop to buy a dog for their children. But John doesn't seem to be very well up on them:

Good afternoon, sir. Good afternoon, madam. Can I help you? ___
Yes. We were... erm... looking for a dog. ___
Ah, I see. Did you have any particular breed in mind? ___
Well, I don't know, really. I'm not that well up on dogs, I'm afraid. It's for my children, you see. ___
I see. Well, would you like a small dog, a big one... ___
Oh, definitely a big one. ___
Well, we've got some very nice Alsatian puppies over here. ___
Aren't they a bit dangerous? ___
Well, it depends. Obviously, you mustn't tease them too much... ___
I was really thinking of one of those big cuddly ones... what are they called? ___
Labradors. They're very good with children, of course. We have a litter of those, too. ___
No, I didn't mean those. I meant the ones they use in Switzerland when people get trapped in the snow. You know, they carry little barrels of brandy around their necks... oh, what are they called? ___
Oh, St Bernard. ___
That's right. ___
Well, they're very placid, of course. ___
You don't sound very encouraging. ___
Well, to be honest, when buying a pet, one of the things you have to take into consideration is how much it's going to cost you to look after it. St Bernards are big eaters, you know... ___
Oh, money's no problem. Do you have any here? ___
John, don't you think we could buy something a little smaller? A cocker spaniel, for example. ___
But the children said they wanted a big dog. A St Bernard seems ideal. ___
Well, if you agree to look after it, I suppose... ___
We haven't got any here at the moment, sir, but I could get one for you next week. ___
Yes, okay. That would be fine. ___





Encaramada sobre las colinas

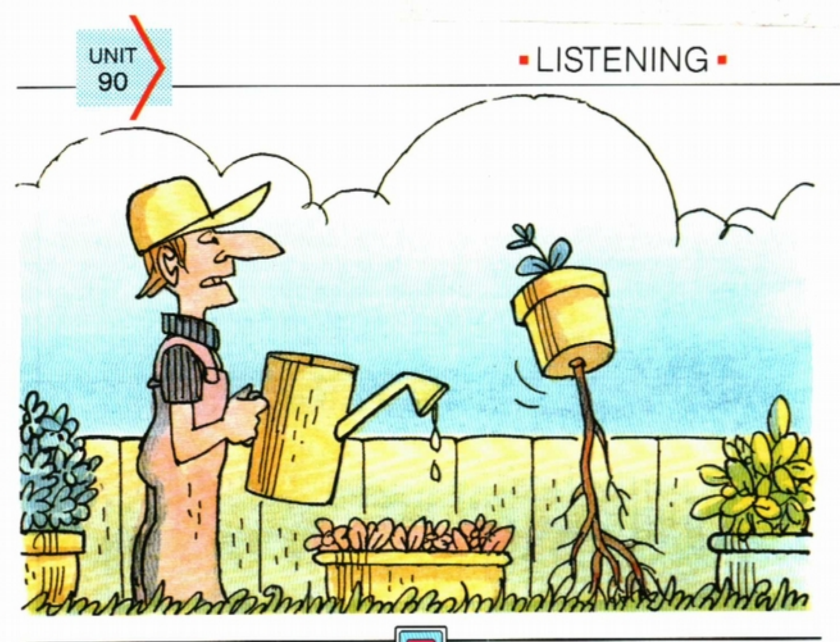
El crecimiento de Wellington fue constante desde su fundación, y en pocas décadas la ciudad superó en importancia a Auckland, sustituyéndola como capital. La expansión urbana abarcó primero las colinas situadas detrás del puerto, y luego ha seguido dos direcciones diferentes hacia el norte: una a lo largo del valle del Hutt, y otra hacia los barrios de Tawa y Porirua, hoy en día transformados en verdaderas ciudades satélites. En las imágenes, el ferrocarril de cremallera que une Lambton Quay, detrás de la dársena, con el mirador panorámico de Kelburn. Este ferrocarril, que entró en funcionamiento en 1902 y fué restaurado en los últimos años de la década de los setenta, atraviesa Kelburn Park y los Jardines Botánicos.

El Parlamento en una colmena

La nueva sede del Parlamento de Wellington (en las imágenes) es mayoritariamente conocida por los neozelandeses como Beehive, es decir 'colmena', por su particular conformación. En cuanto al palacio del Gobierno, que se remonta a 1876, es uno de los más grandes edificios del mundo entre los construidos totalmente en madera. Como miembro de la Commonwealth, Nueva Zelanda reconoce formalmente la suprema autoridad política del monarca inglés, pero goza de la más amplia autonomía. Desde el siglo pasado, se ha distinguido por un decidido reformismo social: fue el primer estado que concedió el voto a las mujeres, en 1838, y el primero también en instituir pensiones por ancianidad, en 1898.







A look round the garden

As you've probably realised by now, participle clauses can come in different positions in the sentence. Sometimes they come at the beginning: **On looking closer, I noticed there were one or two places where the tiles were missing**; in te middle: **They spend all their time in the garden since moving here, playing with the dog**; or at the end: **Why don't we look round the garden before having dinner**?

Now, although there are no real fixed rules about the position, the intonation patterns of sentences like these tend to be very similar. If a participle clause comes at the beginning of the sentence, it almost always has a rising tune. The same is true if it comes in the middle. But if it comes at the end, it nearly always has a falling tune, unless the speaker is asking a question.

In the next dialogue, in which we find John's father visiting the house for the first time, you'll be able to hear all of these patterns. Listen closely, and see if you can identify them.



Granddad arrives

Listen very carefully to the intonation of the **participle clauses** you find in this dialogue:

Hello, John. Hello, Mary. How are things going?

Fine, thank you, Dad.

It's nice to see you all settled in. It's a lovely house you've got here, I must say.

Oh, yes. We're very happy with it. We had to make one or two repairs, but apart from that there were hardly any problems at all.

What kind of repairs?

Well, the roof was in a bit of a state. It didn't seem too bad when we first visited the house, but on looking closer I noticed there were one or two places where the tiles were missing, so I got those replaced and everything was alright.

It must have taken you a lot of work to do the garden in such a short time, as well.

Oh, I hardly did anything at all. We got a company to do it for us. Having such a lot of money in the bank, I didn't think it was worthwhile breaking my back doing the garden when I could quite easily pay to have it done.

How long will it take for everything to grow?

Well, once finished, we'll only have to wait three or four years. All of the trees we chose grow fairly quickly.

What do the children think of it?

Oh, since moving here they've hardly been inside the house at all. Living in the country, they spend all of their time outside. Usually with Ben.

Who's Ben?

Haven't you seen him yet? He's the puppy we bought them.

They've got a dog? Oh, they will be happy. What kind is it?

A St Bernard.

A St Bernard? Aren't they a bit big?

I know. But we've got all the space we need here. Would you like to see it? We can go for a little walk around the garden before having dinner.

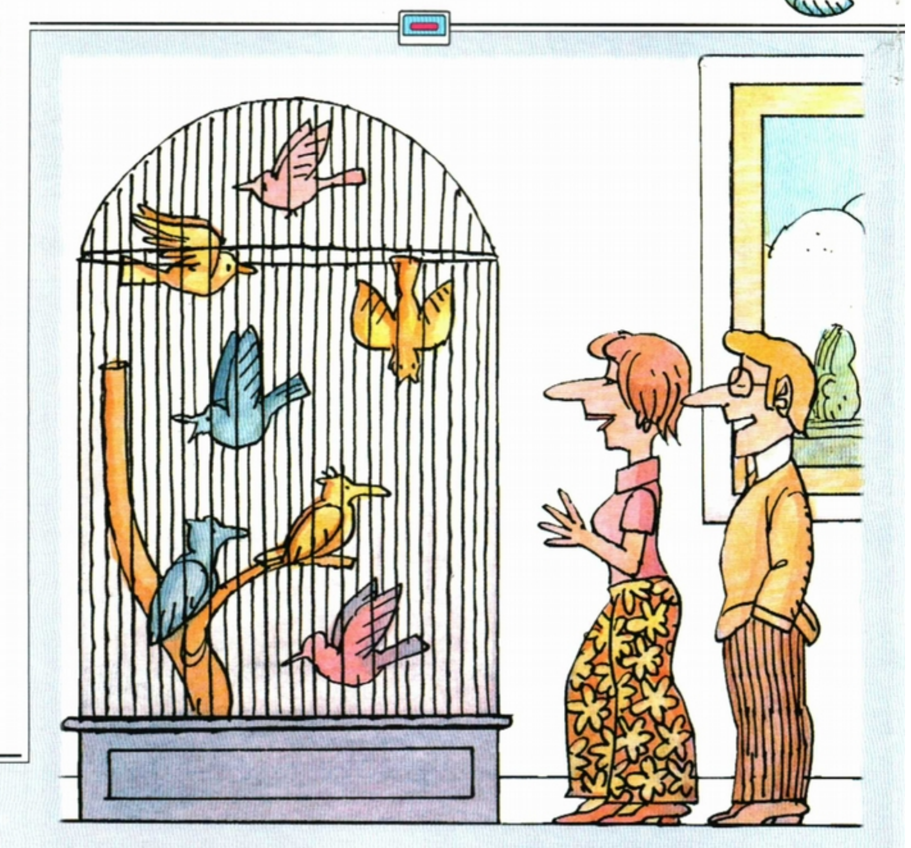
Oh, yes. That would be lovely.

UNIT 90

John improvisa como ornitólogo

Cuando se hereda una fortuna es fácil dejarse llevar por el entusiasmo: después de haber adquirido una gran casa en Sussex y un perro San Bernardo bastante caro de mantener, John, a quien ha encontrado en las páginas precedentes, decide satisfacer el deseo de criar el mismo algún animal y opta por los pájaros exóticos. De este modo, y en poco tiempo, se encontrará con una jaula llena de volátiles de costumbres insólitas y fastidiosas.

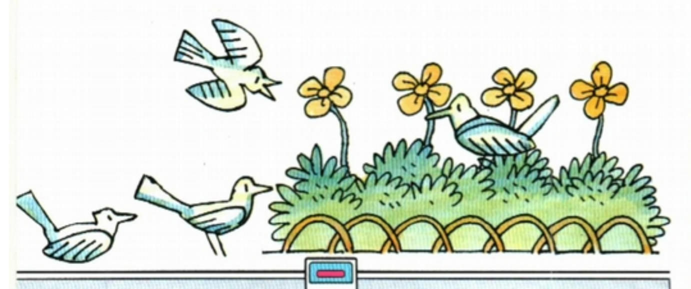
Tendrá usted el placer de descubrir de qué costumbres se trata, prestando atención a algunas expresiones y vocablos que aún le son desconocidos. Ya el título de la conversación le ofrece un juego de palabras y una expresión curiosa; todo lo que es **strictly for the birds** es 'algo que hay que evitar totalmente'. Más adelante encontrará la expresión idiomática **to see someone coming**, que significa 'darse cuenta de la ingenuidad de alguien' (y comportarse en consecuencia, naturalmente). **Cagebirds** son los 'pájaros de jaula'; **bat** es el 'murciélago', y **perch** la 'percha'. El verbo **to mate** significa 'aparear, acoplar' y se usa con referencia al mundo animal en general, no solo a los pájaros. **Gurgling** es el gerundio, aquí con función adjetiva, del verbo **to gurgle**, que quiere decir 'gorgojear'. **To breed** significa 'criar', y la expresión **to drive someone nuts** es un sinónimo de **to drive someone mad**, que es 'enloquecer a alguien'. Para terminar, **to knit** significa 'tejer', **sweater** es el 'jersey' y **python**, como habrá intuido, es la 'pitón'.





STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS

- ~ Well, what do you think, Mary? ___
- ~ Well, they're lovely. A bit noisy, though, John. What are their names? ___
- ~ Oh, hang on. The man at the shop did tell me. I made a list. Where is it? Oh, here it is. Now, the pretty little green and white ones are called Bat Parrots. ___
- ~ That's a strange name. I wonder why they're called that. ___
- ~ Then... you see that little one over there? ___
- ~ The one that sings all the time? ___
- ~ That's right. That's called an Oriental Brush Cuckoo. ___
- ~ I see. And what about those black and yellow ones? ___
- ~ Ah. They're called Oropendolas. ___
- ~ Oropendolas. Dis you... er... find out anything about them before you bought them? ___
- ~ Well, the man at the shop said they were all very easy to look after. And he said these were some of the most popular birds there are. ___
- ~ Mmm. I think the man at the shop saw you coming, John. You know how gullible you are sometimes.
- ~ What's that supposed to mean? ___
- ~ Well, look at the dog, for example. The kids convinced you they wanted a big dog and now he costs us £ 25 a week in food! ___
- ~ What's the problem? Since getting all that money from your father's will, we can afford to live a little, can't we? ___
- ~ Yes, I know. Still... Let's have a look in that book on cagebirds you bought. Maybe there's something in there about them. I just



want to make sure, love, that's all. ___
~ Okay. I don't mind. ___
~ Right. Now, then. What does it say about the Bat Parrot, first of all? ___
~ Well, apparently it gets its name from sleeping upside down on its perch, like a bat. ___
~ From what? ___
~ From sleeping upside down. ___
~ Oh my God. What about the Oriental Brush Cuckoo? ___
~ Oriental... oriental... oh, dear. ___
~ What's wrong? ___
~ This bird is also known as the 'Brain-fever bird'. ___
~ 'Brain-fever bird'? Why's it called that? ___
~ Well, it says here that, after having eaten, this bird will sing incessantly for as long as six hours. People say men have been drien mad because of its continuous song. ___
~ Oh, no! A bird that behaves like a bat I can stand, but I'm not prepared to be driven round the bend by one. What about those other... what are they called? ___
~ Oropendolas. Well, there's no problem with them. Generally speaking, they hardly ever sing at all. ___
~ Well, that's good news. ___
~ Except when they mate. Then the male makes strange gurgling notes. ___
~ That must be the male. The big one. Did you get a pair on purpose? ___
~ Yes, I did. I thought it might be nice to breed them. Uh-oh. ___
~ What's wrong? ___
~ How tall would you say the cage is? ___
~ Oh, about thre feet, I suppose. ___
~ And what's the distance from the top perch to the floor? ___
~ About two feet six. Why? ___
~ Well, it says here that the Oropendolas make nests which are three feet long and hang from the highest perch they can find. ___
~ I don't believe it. So we have one kind of bird that thinks it's a bat, another kind that does its best to drive human beings nuts and a third that's going to knit a sweater for a nest. ___
~ Maybe I should take them back. ___
~ Perhaps you should. And next time get a pet which is easier to live with. ___
~ Like what? ___
~ A python. ___



*El sueño de muchos es tener **a house in the country**. Si además se trata de un 'cottage' a orillas del Támesis, es lo ideal para quien gusta de rodearse de **kittens** y **puppies**.*



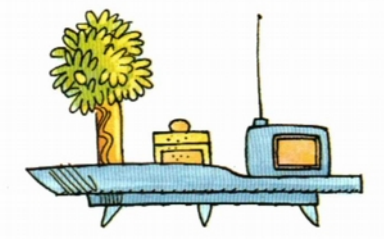
The strange case of Moddey Dhoo

The Isle of Man isn't just famous for its tail-less cats. There is a story that islanders like to tell of a dog called Moddey Dhoo which used to sit in the guardroom in one of the island's castles. But Moddey Dhoo was no ordinary dog. He was a ghost.

Moddy Dhoo, a ghostly black spaniel, used to appear regularly every night in the guardroom of Peel Castle as soon as the guardsmen lit the candles. While he was present, the soldiers never swore or talked profanely, out of respect for the animal's spirit. The dog never interrupted them or made any sign of their presence, but he used to follow them about their nightly duties of locking up the castle and handing the keys over to the 'night captain'. They always used to do this in pairs, but one night a drunken soldier, out of bravado, said he would do the rounds alone. But when he came back, he was unable to talk any more. From that night, the dog disappeared completely, and no-one knows why.

A strange epilogue to this tale came in 1871. During excavations at the castle, researchers found the grave and the bones of Simon, the Bishop of Sodor and Man who died in 1271. At his feet was the skeleton of a dog, just the right size for a spaniel.

Vista desde cierta distancia, parecía una casa señorial



Las oraciones implícitas con función adverbial

Las **participle clauses**, es decir las oraciones implícitas introducidas por los participios pasado y presente (gerundio), además de la función adjetiva, tratada en la Unidad 87, y análogamente a los adverbios, pueden calificar la acción expresada por el verbo de la oración principal. El sujeto de las oraciones implícitas con función adverbial normalmente debe coincidir con el de la frase principal. En las **participle clauses** de este tipo el uso del participio pasado está limitado al lenguaje formal. Observe los ejemplos:

I decided to get Mugsy's to do it, hoping they would be a little more careful.

Talking to the gardener, I realized that we couldn't have two magnolias in the garden.

Viewed from a distance, the house looked like an old mansion.



La concordancia entre el sujeto de la frase principal y el de la subordinada implícita no debe mantenerse cuando las **participle clauses** van introducidas por algunas frases hechas de uso muy común, tales como **judging from...**, **considering**, **supposing...**, **providing** (o bien **provided**)..., **generally speaking**, **broadly speaking**, **taking everything into consideration** (o **account**):

Judging from the size, I think we're going to need a gardener.

Considering its age, it's in a good state of repair.

Supposing I wanted to add a couple of rooms for the children, would there be any problem?

Providing (provided) you get planning permission, there shouldn't be any problem at all.

Generally speaking, the plumbing is in pretty good condition.

Broadly speaking, Sussex County Council are pretty good about that sort of thing.

Taking everything into consideration (account), the wiring's in a fairly good state, too.

Las **participle clauses** con función adverbial también pueden ser introducidas por preposiciones o conjunciones como **after**, **as**, **before**, **if**, **in**, **on**, **once**, **since**, **unless**, **until**, **when**, **whenever**, **while**, etc. He aquí algunos ejemplos:

After talking it over with them, I decided against it.

Before having lunch, why don't we look over the plans together?

The roof didn't seem too bad at first, but on looking closer I noticed that something needed repairing.

Since moving here, they've hardly been inside the house at all.

When buying a pet, you have to consider how much it's going to cost you to look after it.

El gerundio pasado en las participle clauses

Si la acción expresada en la **participle clause** precede en el tiempo a la descrita en la oración principal, hay que recurrir al gerundio pasado, formado por el gerundio del auxiliar **to have** seguido por el participio pasado del verbo:

Having heard that Wreckitt is not really reliable, I decided to use Mugsy & Sons.

After having eaten, this bird will sing incessantly for as long as six hours.

Las oraciones implícitas con los stative verbs

En las **participle clauses** también se pueden utilizar los **stative verbs**, como por ejemplo **to be**, **to have**, **to live**, **to know**, que normalmente no admiten el gerundio (participio presente). Las subordinadas introducidas por tales verbos tienen la función de exponer el motivo de lo que se ha afirmado en la oración principal; se trata, por tanto, de oraciones causales implícitas. Observe los ejemplos:

Being in a good state of repair, the house didn't need much doing to it.

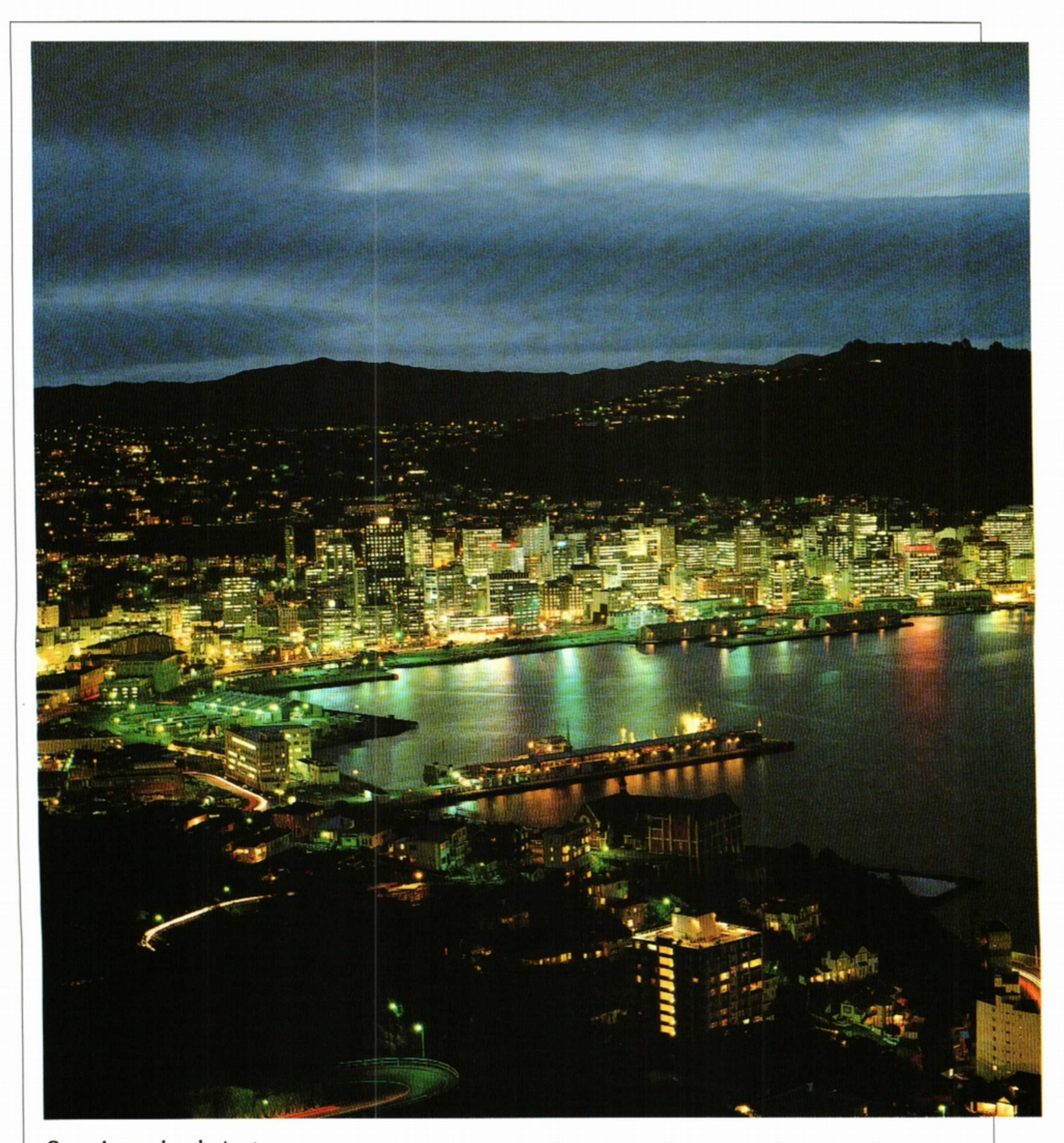
Having such a lot of money in the bank, I didn't think it was worthwhile breaking my back doing the garden.

Living in the country, they spend all their time outside.

Not knowing where you wanted it, I told them to put it in our bedroom.

En esta sección ha aprendido:

- las **participle clauses** con función adverbial: reglas y particularidades;
- el gerundio pasado y los **stative verbs** en las **participle clauses**.



Cuando sopla el viento

A menudo, y no por casualidad, los neozelandeses se refieren a su capital con el apelativo de Windy Wellington. Quien se encuentra allí a principios del invierno, es decir en el mes de junio, podrá comprobarlo personalmente: las calles, el puerto, la playa son azotados por un viento impetuoso que pone en serios apuros no sólo a los transeúntes más robustos, sino hasta las embarcaciones. En compensación, el gráfico de las temperaturas muestra una variación anual realmente envidiable: no desciende jamás por debajo de los 5 grados y supera raramente los 20. En la foto, una sugestiva imagen nocturna de Wellington vista desde la bahía.

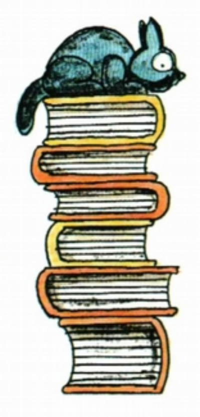
UNIT 90

Qué devoto es el gato Jeoffry



La literatura italiana posee un bellísimo canto de alabanza al Señor que magnifica cada aspecto de la creación: es el 'Cántico de las criaturas', escrito por san Francisco de Asís. En cambio, Inglaterra cuenta con el poema **'Jubilate Agno'**, compuesto en 1770 por Christopher Smart (1722-1771) para cantar la gloria del Creador, descubriendo las señales de su presencia en todas las manifestaciones de la naturaleza.

Los versos que leerá ahora constituyen uno de los fragmentos más singulares de la obra porque se refieren al gato, aninal doméstico por excelencia, pero rodeado por un halo de misterio. Los movimientos elegantes, la mirada enigmática, los hábitos casi rituales de este felino, a menudo han inspirado a los poetas. En algunas civilizaciones, los gatos hasta eran adorados como divinidades. No obstante, antes de Smart, pocos habían observado en el comportamiento del gato las señales de una auténtica devoción religiosa. En cambio, el espíritu observador del poeta sabe captar en cada pequeño movimiento del gatito Jeoffry un hálito espiritual y una muda plegaria a su Creador. La visión de Smart es un poco aventurada, hasta tal punto que su fervor religioso lo condujo a una vida infeliz, donde no faltaron la experiencia del manicomio y de la cárcel. Pero, ciertamente, su precisión descriptiva unida a la capacidad visionaria han beneficiado su obra poética, que alcanzó niveles muy elevados.



JUBILATE AGNO[1]

* * *

For[2] I will consider[3] my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant[4] of the Living God, duly[5] and daily serving him.
For at the first glance[6] of the glory of God in the East[7] he worships[8] in his way.
For is this[9] done by wreathing his body seven times round[10] with elegant quickness. [...]
For having done duty[11] and received blessing[12] he begins to consider himself.
For this he performs in[13] ten degrees[14].
For first he looks upon his fore-paws[15] to see if they are clean.
For secondly he kicks up behind[16] to clear away[17] there.
For thirdly he works it upon stretch[18] with the fore-paws extended[19].
For fourthly he sharpens his paws[20] by wood.
For fifthly he washes himself.
For sixthly he rolls upon wash[21].
For seventhly he fleas himself[22], that he may not be interrupted upon the beat[23].

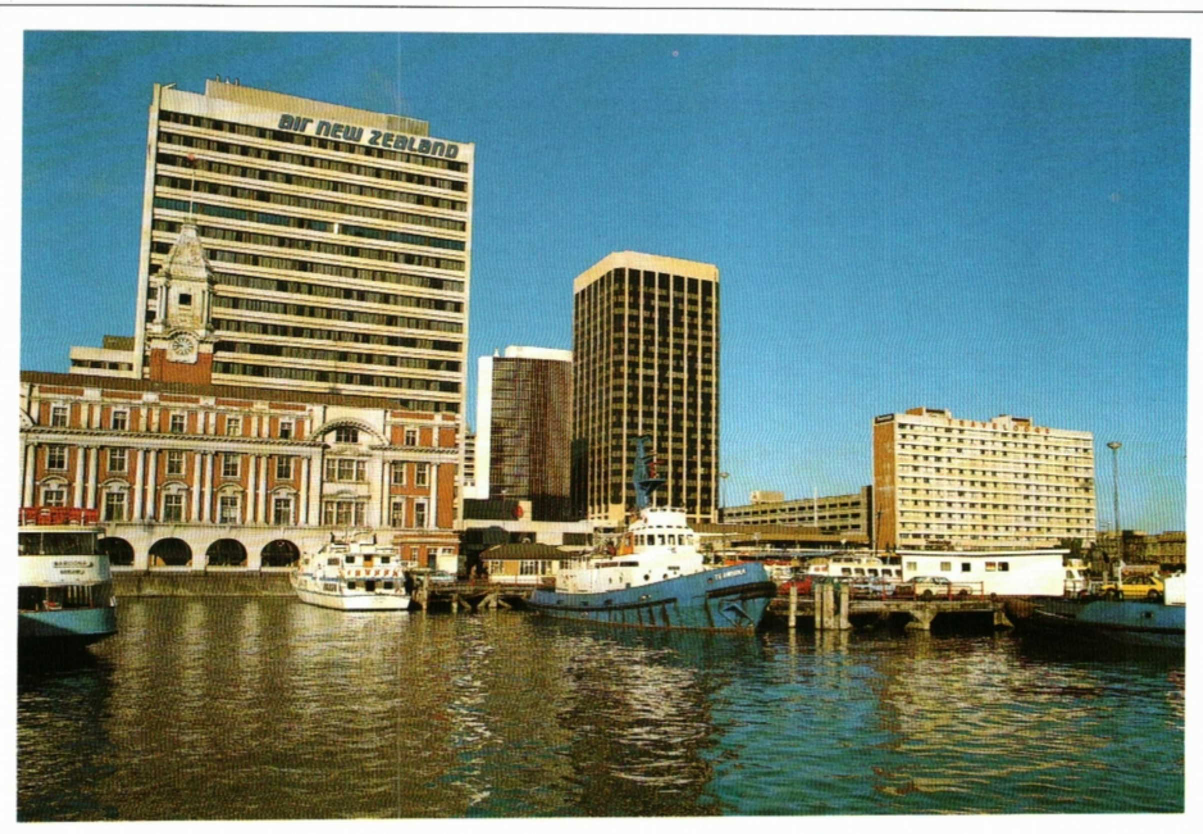
1. **Jubilate Agno:** es una conocida expresión bíblica que significa 'alabad al Cordero', es decir Jesucristo. Todo el poema de Christopher Smart está construido en torno a esta exhortación inicial que rige la conjunción **for**.
2. **For:** porque, dado que; esta es una conjunción con valor causal que se repite al comienzo de cada verso, según el esquema de la anáfora. Es un recurso poético para subrayar los innumerables motivos de alabanza al Señor.
3. **Consider:** el verbo **to consider** se repite muchas veces en esta parte del poema. En general significa 'pensar en, considerar', pero en este caso particular sirve para introducir el tema que se quiere tratar.
4. **Servant:** servidor.
5. **Duly:** debidamente.
6. **Glance:** mirada, ojeada.
7. **Of the glory of God in the East:** de la gloria de Dios en Oriente; es decir el sol naciente.
8. **He worships:** él adora.
9. **Is this:** note la inversión del sujeto con el verbo.
10. **By wreathing... round:** retorciendo su cuerpo siete veces.
11. **Having done duty:** cumplido (su) deber.
12. **Received blessing:** recibida la bendición.
13. **He performs in:** lo realiza con.
14. **Ten degrees:** diez acciones; es decir las diez acciones sucesivas que se enumeran a continuación.
15. **He looks upon his fore-paws:** se mira las patas anteriores.
16. **He kicks up behind:** da patadas hacia atrás.
17. **To clear away:** para limpiar bien (el terreno).
18. **He works it upon stretch:** se estira.
19. **Extended:** extendidas.
20. **He sharpens his paws:** se afila las garras.
21. **He rolls upon wash:** oscila mientras se lava.
22. **He fleas himself:** se quita las pulgas.
23. **That he may... beat:** de modo que no sea interrumpido durante la ronda. Con otras palabras: el gato elimina las pulgas para que no lo molesten durante sus rondas.
24. **He rubs himself:** se frota.
25. **Post:** palo.
26. **He looks up:** mira hacia arriba.
27. **In quest:** en busca.
28. **Consider'd:** es la contracción de **considered**.
29. **Prey:** presa.
30. **To give it chance:** para darle la oportunidad (de fuga).

For eighthly he rubs himself[24] against a post[25].
For ninthly he looks up[26] for his instructions.
For tenthly he goes in quest[27] of food.
For having consider'd[28] God and himself he will consider his neighbour.
For if he meets another cat he will kiss her in kindness.
For when he takes his prey[29] he plays with it to give it chance[30].
For one mouse in seven escapes by his dallying[31].
For when his day's work is done his business more properly begins[32].
For [he] keeps the Lord's watch[33] in the night against the adversary[34].
For he counteracts[35] the powers of darkness by his electrical skin and glaring[36] eyes.
For he counteracts the Devil, who is death, by brisking about the life[37].
For in his morning orisons[38] he loves the sun and the sun loves him.
For he has the subtlety and hissing[39] of a serpent, which in goodness he suppresses[40].
For he will not do destruction[41], if he is well-fed, neither will he spit[42] without provocation.
For he purrs in thankfulness[43], when God tells him he's a good Cat.
For he is an instrument for the children to learn benevolence upon[44].
For every house is incompleat[45] without him and a blessing is lacking in the spirit[46]. [...]
For he is a mixture of gravity and waggery[47].
For he knows that God is his Saviour[48].
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest[49].
For there is nothing brisker[50] than his life when in motion[51]. [...]
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For, tho[52] he cannot fly, he is an excellent clamberer[53].
For his motions upon the face of the earth are more than any other quadrupede.
For he can tread to all the measures upon the musick[54].
For he can swim for life[55].
For he can creep[56].



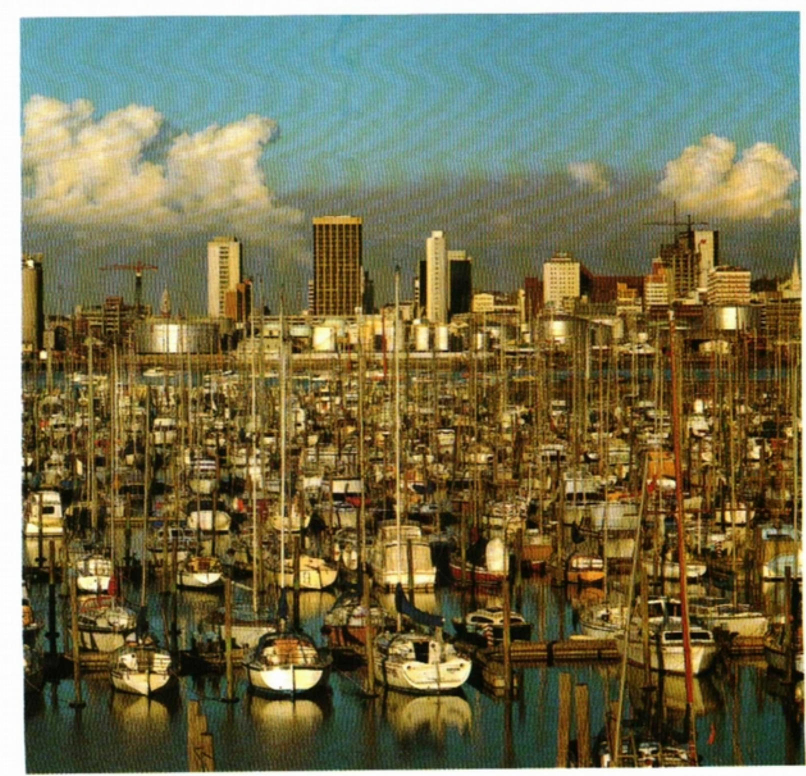
Para componer el poema 'Jubilate Agno', Christopher Smart observó atentamente el comportamiento y los hábitos de los gatos. Al lado y en la página anterior, dos estampas del siglo XIX.

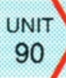
31. **By his dallying:** dado que él juguetea. El poeta quiere decir que de siete ratones, sólo uno logra escapar del gato, ya que a él le gusta juguetear con su presa.
32. **When his day's work... more properly begins:** cuando su tarea cotidiana está cumplida, empieza su verdadera ocupación.
33. **Keeps the Lord's watch:** vela como guardián del Señor. La expresión **to keep watch** significa 'estar de guardia'.
34. **Adversary:** adversario.
35. **He counteracts:** se opone a.
36. **Glaring:** deslumbrantes.
37. **By brisking about the life:** toda la expresión significa 'llevando una vida intensa y activa'.
38. **Orisons:** oraciones.
39. **He has the subtlety and hissing:** él tiene la astucia y el silbido.
40. **In goodness he suppresses:** por su naturaleza afable él suprime.
41. **He will not do destruction:** no causará problemas.
42. **Will he spit:** escupirá.
43. **He purrs in thankfulness:** ronronea en señal de agradecimiento.
44. **To learn benevolence upon:** del cual aprender la benevolencia.
45. **Incompleat:** incompleta.
46. **And a blessing is lacking in the spirit:** y falta la bendición espiritual.
47. **A mixture of gravity and waggery:** una mezcla de seriedad y comicidad.
48. **Saviour:** Salvador, Redentor.
49. **When at rest:** cuando descansa.
50. **Brisker:** más vivaz.
51. **In motion:** (él está) en movimiento.
52. **Tho:** abreviatura de though.
53. **Clamberer:** trepador.
54. **He can tread... musick:** puede brincar siguiendo todos los ritmos de la música. La forma **musick** es arcaica.
55. **He can swim for life:** puede salvar su vida nadando.
56. **He can creep:** puede arrastrarse.



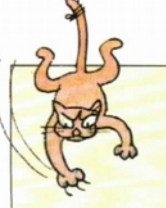
En velero alrededor de Auckland

La ciudad de Auckland (en las fotos), asomada al mar por varias zonas, ocupa un estrecho istmo al comienzo de la península homónima. Aquí el perfil de la tierra firme es irregular, caracterizado por fiordos, bahías, ensenadas, e islas frente a la costa. Por esto, las diferentes partes de la ciudad resultan desarticuladas y las comunicaciones entre los barrios son posibles gracias a largos puentes o conexiones por mar. Auckland, que supera a Wellington en dimensiones y número de habitantes (842.000), es la escala marítima más transitada de Nueva Zelanda y el punto de desembarco preferido por los turistas. Como en Sydney, numerosísimas embarcaciones deportivas surcan las aguas protegidas de las bahías, con un lugar de atraque garantizado en el pequeño puerto.





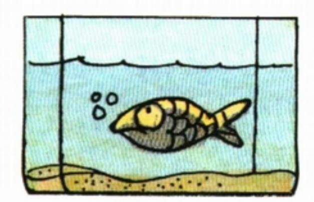




Generalizando

broadly speaking	hablando en sentido amplio
generally speaking	hablando en general
judging from	a juzgar por
taking everything into account	teniendo todo en cuenta
taking everything into consideration	considerando todo

Alsatian	pastor alemán (GB)
appearance	aspecto
barrel	barril
bat	murciélago
breed	raza
(to) breed	criar
cagebird	pájaro de jaula
cocker spaniel	cocker
(to) cuddle	estrechar tiernamente, mimar
cuddly	que inspira ternura
(to) date back to	remontarse a
(to) direct	dirigir
drawing room	saloncito, gabinete
especially	especialmente
extension	parte agregada a un edificio
(to) fit in	estar en armonía, adaptarse
German shepherd	pastor alemán (USA)
gnome	gnomo
grounds	terreno
(to) gurgle	burbujear, gorgotear
hall	atrio, vestíbulo
incessantly	continuamente
kennel, kennels	cubil, perrera
light	luminoso



Synonyms and antonyms

Quizá haya notado que en inglés se usan términos diferentes para indicar los cachorros de los animales, comprendidos los domésticos como el perro y el gato. ***Puppy*** *es el cachorro del perro, mientras que al gatito recién nacido se lo llama* ***kitten: My Alsatian has had six puppies and my Siamese cat has had four kittens.*** *Además* ***puppy****, a menudo abreviado en* ***pup****, también se refiere a los cachorros de los mamíferos marinos como las focas y las ballenas:* ***We saw a humpback whale with her pup off the Californian coast.*** *Este término también puede indicar un jovencito tonto y presuntuoso:* ***Don't talk to me like that, you impudent young pup!*** *Y si quiere hablar del engreimiento típico de los adolescentes, el inglés utiliza la curiosa expresión* ***puppy love: They can't be in love at sixteen. It's just puppy love.*** *En cambio, el término que define a los cachorros de los animales salvajes es* ***cub: The fox had just given birth to three cubs.***

listed building	edificio protegido
litter	camada, nidada
(to) look after	atender, cuidar
major	grave, importante
(to) mate	aparearse
move	traslado, mudanza
(to) move house	mudarse
perch	percha
pet	animal doméstico
placid	plácido, manso



planning permission	permiso municipal
plumbing	fontanería
pond	pequeño lago artificial
professional	profesional
provided	a condición que, con tal que
providing	a condición que, con tal que
puppy	cachorro
python	pitón
run down	decrépito, en ruinas



(to) settle in	instalarse, establecerse
so far	hasta ahora
St Bernard	San Bernardo
study	estudio
sweater	jersey
(to) tease	provocar, fastidiar
these days	hoy día
(to) trap	atrapar, coger
well-equipped	bien equipado
wing	ala de un edificio
wiring	instalación eléctrica

A evitar totalmente

(to) be in a state	estar muy nervioso
(to) be well up on (in) something	ser entendido en algo
(to) decide against something	decidir no hacer algo
(to) drive someone nuts	hacer enloquecer a alguien
(to) get carried away	entusiasmarse, dejarse llevar por algo
(to) see someone coming	darse cuenta de la ingenuidad de alguien
strictly for the birds	a evitar totalmente
(to) talk something over	hablar, discutir algo



1

☐ Complete las frases siguientes, añadiendo las preposiciones o las partículas apropiadas en los espacios vacíos:

a) You'll have to turn ___ this road and take the A64 for Whitehaven.
b) How do you go ___ growing magnolias?
c) That's terrible cough you've got. You ought to cut ___ on the cigarettes.
d) Can you work ___ what £15 is in lire?
e) Could you pull ___ to the side of the road, please, sir?
f) Couldn't you let me ___ just this once, officer?
g) My wife's taken ___ jogging.
h) You're ___ luck. I've just got enough to pay for your ticket.
i) That man is a real pain ___ the neck.
j) He's driving too fast. I can't keep ___ with him.
k) I'm going to put my foot ___ and get to Penzance before they do.
l) How much does the bill come ___?
m) When I get hold ___ that man, I'm going to strangle him in his own red tape!
n) I fell ___ my bike and cut myself.
ñ) How did you get ___ with your birdwatching trip to Handa Island?
o) I've given ___ eating meat.
p) When the lakes drained ___, they left these marks on the sides of the glens.
q) I've put your name ___ for the trip to Timbuktu.
r) How I go about claiming ___ some whisky which they impounded at the customs?
s) He didn't really want to go ___ his reasons for selling the house.

2

☐ Añada en estas frases el gerundio o el infinitivo del verbo entre paréntesis:

a) Did you remember (to book) the tickets for our trip to Colorado?
b) Sorry for (to get) those forms mixed up, Mrs Warblebone.
c) You're not afraid of (to drive), are you?
d) Try (to look) through the binoculars. You might be able to see them.
e) I can't bear (to deal) with bureaucrats.
f) I saw him (to jog) along the road this morning at half past five.

3

☐ En la grabación hallará un diálogo. Escúchelo muy atentamente y luego responda a las diez preguntas formuladas a continuación:



a) Is there a study in the house or not?
b) What does the man who is thinking of buying the house do for a living?
c) Next to the kitchen there is a small room. What did the previous owners use it for?
d) How many bathrooms are there on the ground floor?
e) How many are there on the first floor?
f) How many bedrooms are there in total?
g) How many rooms are there in total on the ground floor?
h) How many cars could they put in the garage?
i) How big is the garden?
j) How much does the house cost?

SOLUCIONES DEL TEST

1 ■ a) off. b) about. c) down. d) out. e) over. f) off. g) up. h) in. i) in. j) up. k) down. l) to. m) of. n) off. ñ) on. o) up. p) away. q) down. r) back. s) into.
Cada frase exacta vale un punto.

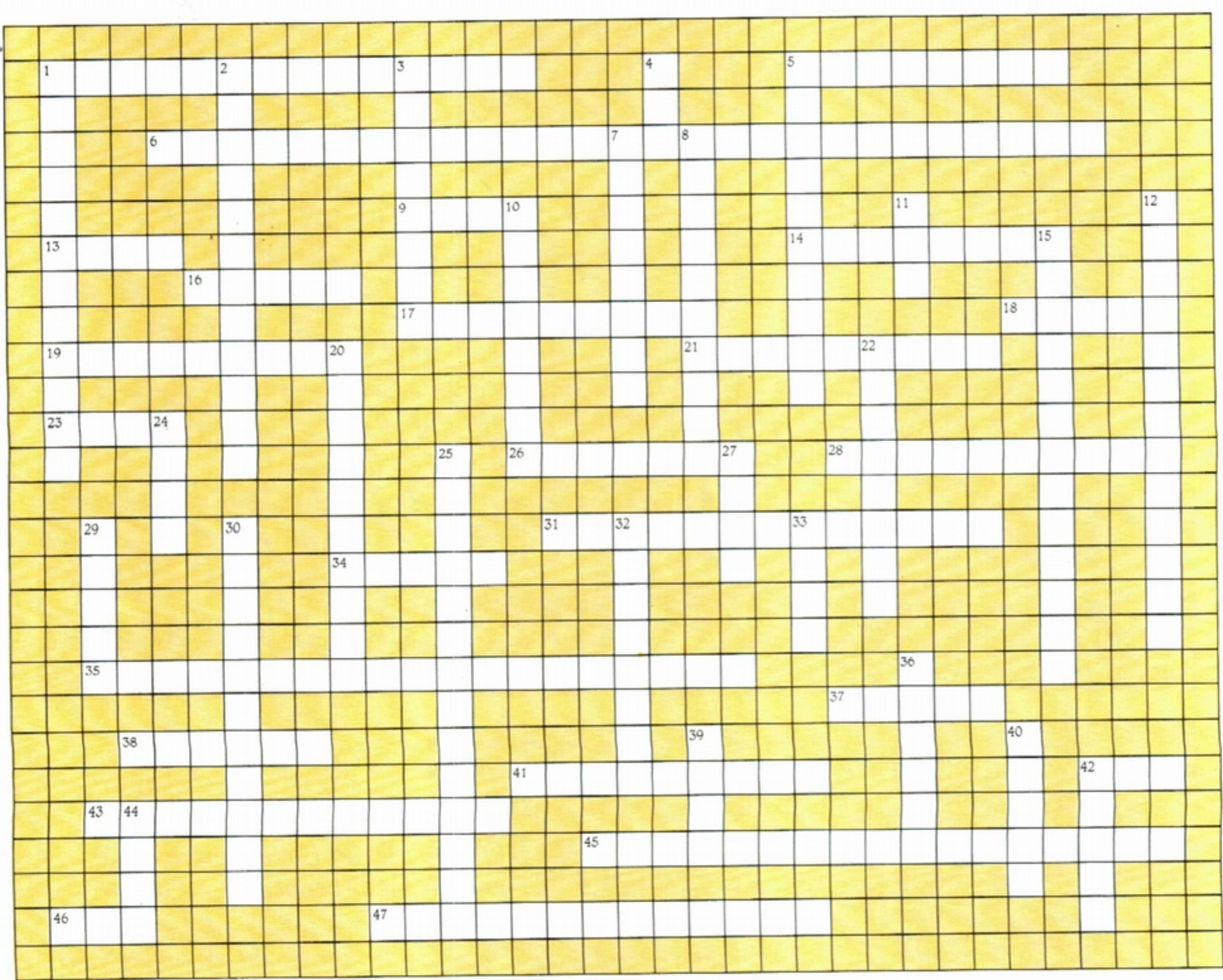
2 ■ a) to book. b) getting. c) driving. d) looking. e) dealing. f) jogging.
Este test vale 10 puntos.

3 ■ a) yes. b) he's a doctor. c) they used it for the freezer. d) none. e) two. f) five. g) nine. h) two. i) about an acre. j) £415,000.
He aquí el texto grabado: - Now, then. This is the ground floor. Over there we have the living room. And next door is the study. - It's nice and big, isn't it? - Oh, yes. It's ideal for a doctor, I would say. - And what's this small room over here? - Ah. Now, that's a room which the previous owners used as a kind of freezer room. Oh. That's handy. And it's right next to the kitchen, as well. - And this is a store room, I suppose. - Yes, that's right. It's very useful for vacuum cleaners, cleaning equipment... that kind of thing. Then we have this little side room which the previous owners used as a playroom for the children. - Is there a bathroom on this floor? - Well, there's a toilet, but unfortunately both the bathrooms are upstairs. One's en suite, though. - How many bedrooms are there? - There are five in total. Now, if you'd like to come over here... - Oh, look. A games room. - Yes. Through here there's a sauna, and then there's a double garage. - John, have you seen this? There's a swimming pool as well. - That's nice. - Yes. It's not very big, though. - What about the garden? - Oh, the garden's a good size. It's about an acre in total. - I see. Whell, what's the asking price? - Well, the owners are asking for £415,000. - Mmm, it's not cheap, that's for sure.
Cada respuesta exacta vale medio punto.

4 ■ Across: 1. breeding season. 5. botanist. 6. international driving licence. 9. quid. 13. dumb. 14. up you get. 16. herd. 17. strenuous. 18. waist. 19. cakestand. 21. spare tyre. 23. rosy. 26. devoted. 28. transforms. 31. business luch. 34. eagle. 35. to go like the clappers. 37. graze. 38. to mate. 41. virtually. 42. bit. 43. to drift apart. 45. generally speaking. 46. cor. 47. to die with envy. Down: 1. by credit card. 2. interjection. 3. antiques. 4. tor. 5. binoculars. 7. don't mock. 8. impressive. 10. dogeared. 11. low. 12. nesting season. 15. thank goodness. 20. difference. 22. to arouse. 24. yogi. 25. wholemeal bread. 27. diet. 29. sheet. 30. humiliating. 32. signpost. 33. slip. 36. ladies. 39. vase. 40. so far. 42. brief. 44. over.
Cada respuesta exacta vale medio punto.

Compruebe su nivel
¿Cuál es la puntuación total alcanzada?

Puntuación	Nivel	Sugerencias
de 45 a 60	excelente	¡Continúe así!
de 35 a 44	muy bien	¡Continúe así!
de 25 a 34	bien	Un poco más de atención.
de 13 a 24	suficiente	Sería muy útil un pequeño repaso antes de continuar.
12 o menos	insuficiente	Debe repasarlo todo.



— 4 —

☐ En el crucigrama, no deje espacios vacíos entre una palabra y otra cuando la solución está compuesta por varios términos.

ACROSS

1. This is the period in which wild animals and birds mate and have their young.
5. A person who studies plants.
6. A document you can use to drive almost anywhere in the world.
9. A colloquial term for a pound.
13. A colloquial American term for 'stupid'.
14. Say this to someone when you want them to get out of bed.
16. A large group of wild animals, like deer, for example.
17. Needing great effort.
18. The part of the human body which is just below the chest, and should be slimmer than it!
19. Something you can use to put cakes on.
21. If the part of your body just below the chest isn't very slim, you've got one!
23. Something that gives hope is like this.
26. And someone who shows great loyalty or affection for someone else is like this!
28. Changes.
31. This is what you have when you eat in a restaurant at midday with a client.
34. A large bird with very good sight that kills mice and other small animals.
35. To go very fast.
37. A small wound.
38. Animals do this in order to have their young.
41. Practically.
42. A small part.
43. The Earth's tectonic plates did this, and are still doing it!
45. Talking in general terms.
46. An interjection for showing surprise.
47. To be very jealous.

DOWN

1. Paying with a small plastic card.
2. A short word or phrase which expresses shock, surprise, or disapproval.
3. Very old pieces of furniture.
4. A small rocky outcrop.
5. You can use these to see into the distance.
7. Don't make fun of it!
8. Causing admiration.
10. The pages of books that have been used a lot are like this.
11. If the battery in your car is like this, you won't be going anywhere.
12. The period in which birds build their nests.
15. Something to say when you are very relieved.
20. Something that makes one thing dissimilar to another.
22. To cause something to become active.
24. A person who teaches yoga.
25. Bread which contains all the grain.
27. Something to follow if you want to become slim.
29. A piece of paper.
30. A situation that makes you feel very small is like this.
32. Look out for this if you don't want to lose your way.
33. A very small piece of paper.
36. A toilet for women.
39. Something to put flowers in.
40. Up to the present.
42. Very short.
44. More than.







De la Copa América a Greenpeace

Las fotografías de esta página muestran una multitud festiva que saluda a las tripulaciones que están a punto de partir del puerto de Auckland para la America's Cup. En este país de polinesios y de colonos venidos del mar, las regatas de veleros son una costumbre muy arraigada que provoca la participación entusiasta y activa de los ciudadanos. Pero este mismo puerto fue también testigo de un trágico suceso, sin ninguna relación con el deporte. Aquí, en 1985, resultó hundida una nave de Greenpeace, empeñada en una campaña contra las armas nucleares. Hay que tener presente que Nueva Zelanda ha rechazado la instalación de este tipo de armamentos, provocando con ello el desagrado de las potencias occidentales presentes militarmente en el Pacífico.